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Dixon, Illinois

(1920)

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Ill. Hist. Survey

ILLINOIS HISTO

THE City of Dixon is situated in Lee County, Illinois, ninty-eight miles west of Chicago, in one of the most graceful curves of Rock River. The country in which it is set, while not rugged, is picturesque, uniting in rare proportions the useful with the beautiful—rich undulating prairies indented by a valley whose stretches of lovely scenery entitle it to be called "the Hudson of the West." Horace Greeley wrote much in praise of our prairies, which since his time have been laid out into park-like farms; and Margaret Fuller, in her delightful book of sketches, "At Home and Abroad," told as only a poet can tell of the charm of Rock River, the living green of its rustling woods, the fantastic architecture of its cliffs, and the dreamy beauty of its winding waters.

The history of Dixon reads like a romance, its story beginning in the days of the log-cabin, the grist-mill, and the slow stage-coach, when it was a ferry station on the old Kellogg Trail leading from Peoria to the Galena mines in 1826. Here, many a notable party of traders, explorers, military officials and miners rendezvoused in the olden time. By 1830, John Dixon, the founder of the city, had built his cabin, and the ferry had henceforth a place in history. Here Abraham Lincoln was sworn into service in a scouting corps and had his first and only experience as a soldier, as he once related in a speech. Here Jefferson Davis, afterwards President of the Southern Confederacy, Robert Anderson, who defended Fort Sumter, Albert Sidney Johnson, who fell at Shiloh, and Zachary Taylor, met, were comrades in camp, under blunt General Atkinson, in the old Fort which stood just north of the bridge, in the days of the Black Hawk War. Such a meeting was one of the co-incidents of our national history, and it marks this spot as historic.

Once a frontier ferry, Dixon has grown to be a city of beauty, progress and enterprise. Artistic homes on either side of spacious avenues, paved streets, miles of cement sidewalks, city and interurban car lines, two railways for travel and traffic, hard roads running in almost every direction, tell of a community that is alert, alive and advancing.

Its public school system is one of the best, to which is added a Military Academy, a Business College and a Normal College. Its churches represent many faiths and almost every design of architecture, and its Y. M. C. A. building is one of the most perfect in the land. A Public Library, the gift of one its citizens, is a model of taste, beauty and convenience. "Lowell Park," a gift to the city from the estate of the late Charles Russell Lowell, is a woodland retreat for rest and amusement the like of which few cities can boast, while the Rock River Chautauqua Assembly has none to surpass it for beauty of location and high ideals of culture.

Perhaps no city of its size outranks Dixon in the number of its large manufacturing concerns. The local plant of the Borden Condensed Milk Company is the largest of its kind in America, and the Sandusky Portland Cement Works one mile to the east is a city in itself, employing an army of men. The Watson-Plummer Shoe Factory, the Grand de Tour Plow Works, the Gossard Corset Company, the Clipper Lawn Mower Factory, the Reynolds Wire Company, the Rodesch Piano-Player Company, besides other smaller enterprises, make the city attractive alike to labor and capital. The opening of the feeder to the Hennepin Canal gives Dixon a water way to the Gulf, which unlocks a new vista of opportunity and expectation.

Thus Dixon has every reason to be proud of its history and hopeful of a future full of promise. It offers an ideal spot for those who wish a home where the comforts of a city are blended with the quiet charm of natural beauty and the unrhymed poetry of simple life. The Dixon Club, the Elk's Club, the Phidian Art Club, the Woman's Club, Masonic and Odd-Fellows Temples and various societies for culture and pleasure, invite those who love the graces and amenities of refined society. All summer long, steamboats and fleets of launches ply the bright waters bearing happy parties to shady nooks and grass carpeted islands up the river, for outings. Everything that makes life gracious and winsome may be found in this city, and the longer one lives in it the more one loves it.

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ROCK RIVER ASSEMBLY
DIXON, ILL.
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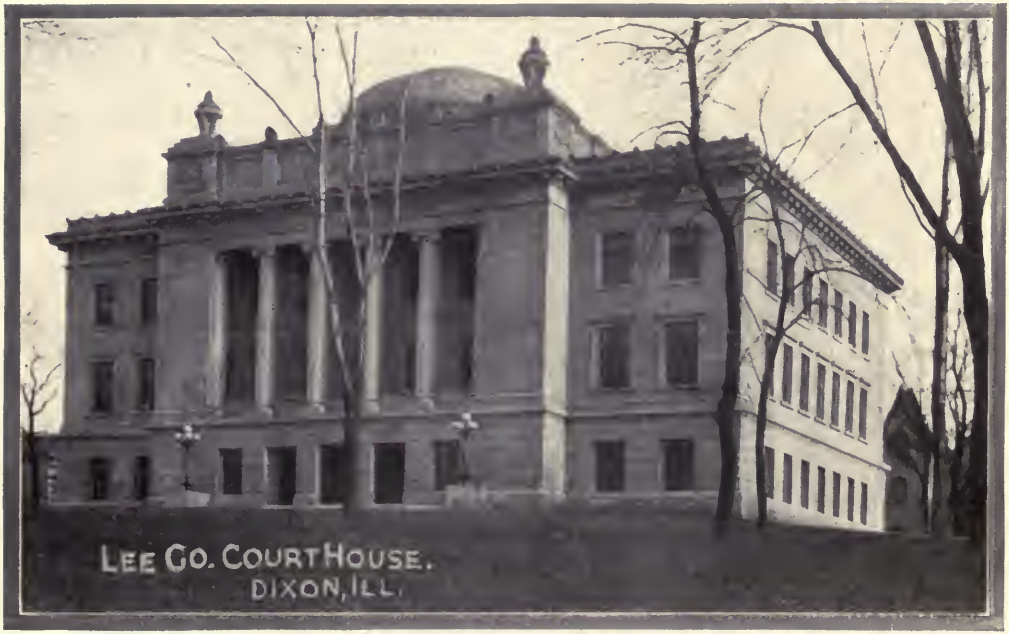
ADELHEID PARK.
ASSEMBLY PARK
DIXON, ILL.
LOWELL PARK


LEE CO. COURT HOUSE.
DIXON, ILL.

DIXON, ILL.
FIRST ST.
GALENA AVE.
OWL
OWL

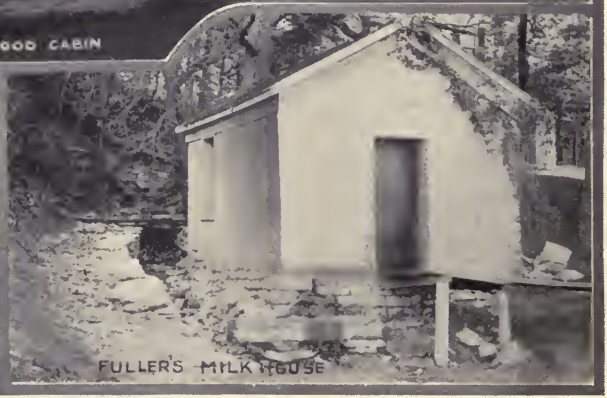
RIVER ROAD - DIXON, ILL.

FULLERS CAVE
DIXON - ILL

DIXON , ILL.

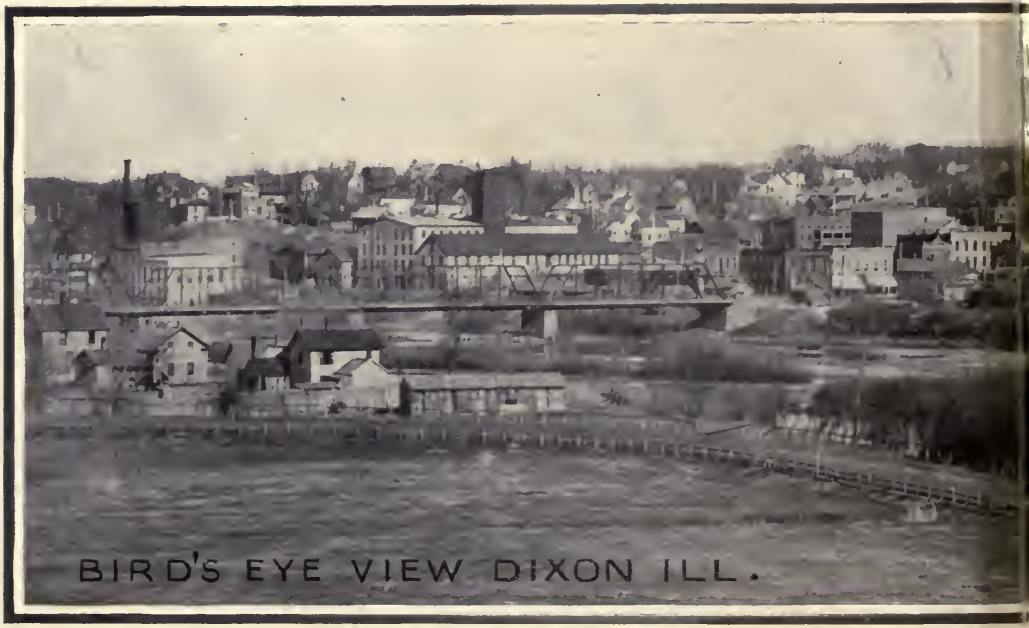
OLD ELM

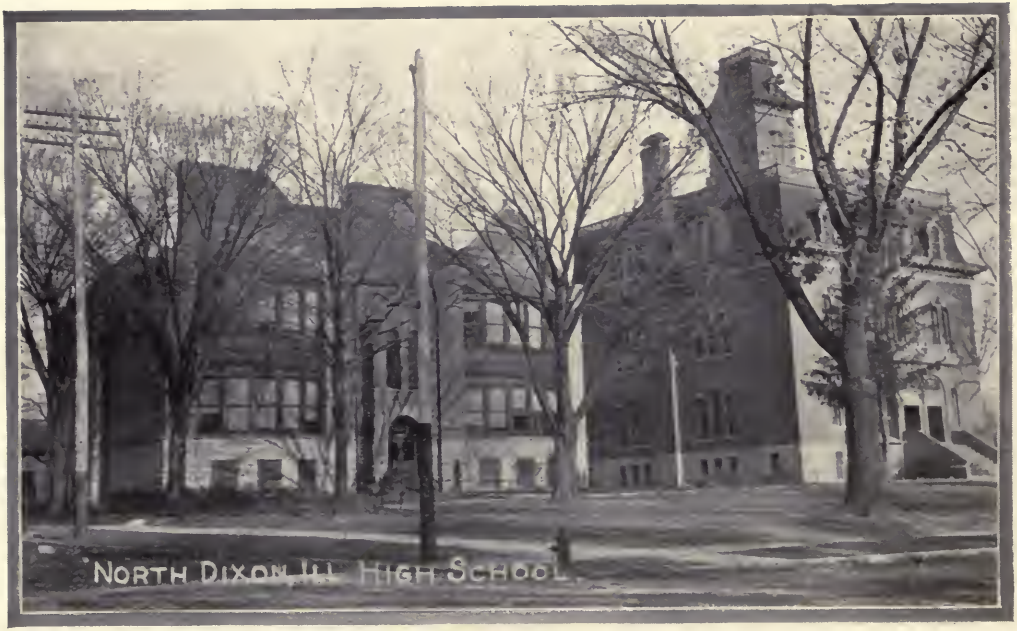
HAZELWOOD CABIN



FULLER'S MILK HOUSE

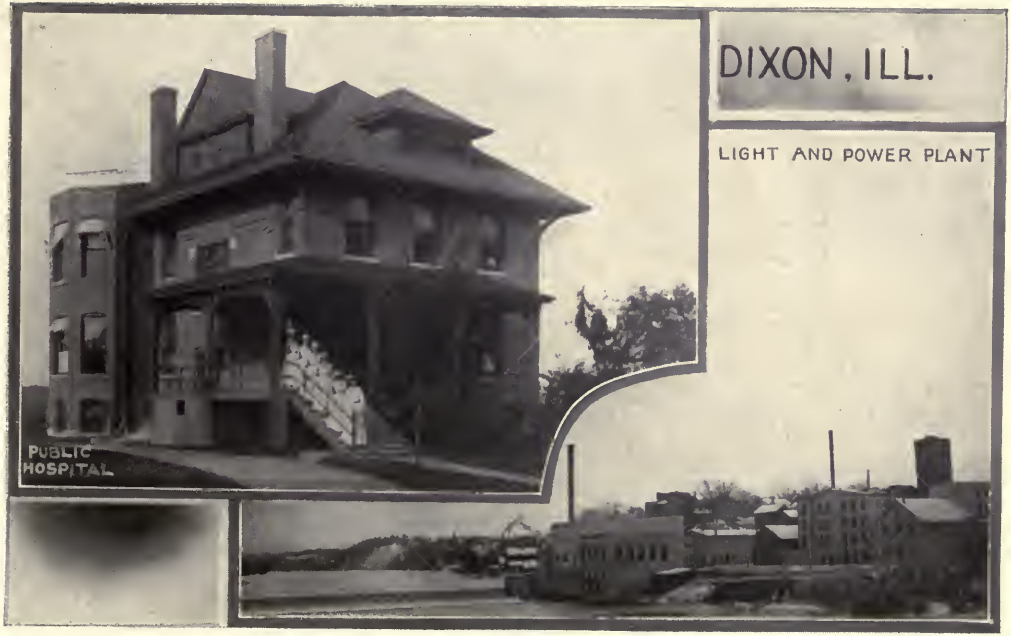
WHIRLPOOL ROCK DIXON, ILL


BIRD'S EYE VIEW DIXON ILL.


NORTH DIXON ILL HIGH SCHOOL

Y.M.C.A. DIXON, ILL.

WAGON BRIDGE.
DIXON, ILL.

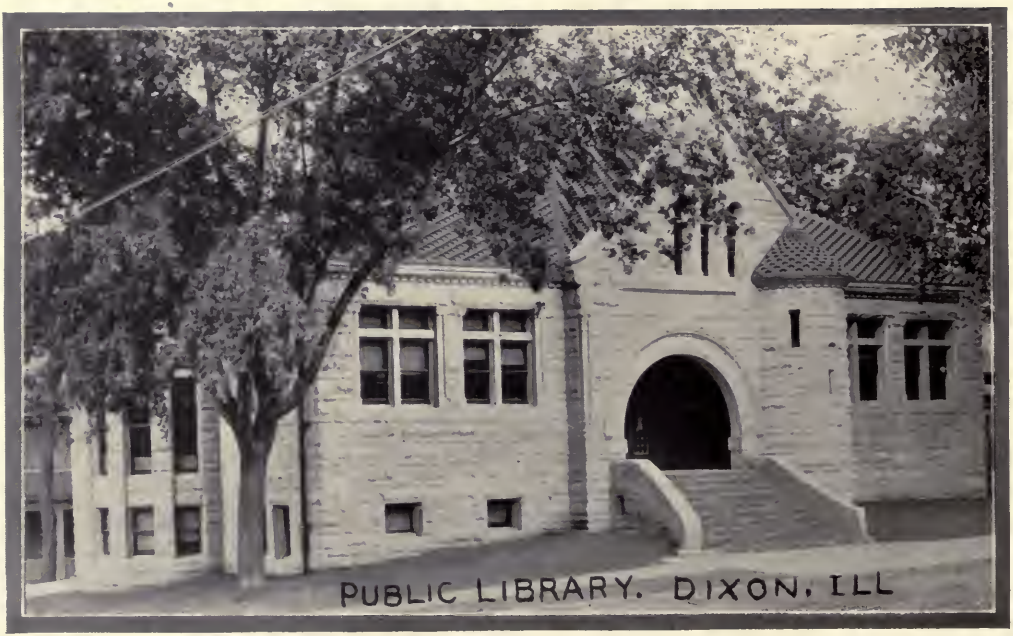

DIXON, ILL.
LIGHT AND POWER PLANT
PUBLIC HOSPITAL

DIXON, ILL.

WATSON
SHOE FACTORIES

BORDEN CONDENSED MILK FACTORY

SANDUSKY PORTLAND CEMENT CO.
DIXON, ILL.


PUBLIC LIBRARY. DIXON. ILL

ROCK RIVER
SCENERY
DIXON, ILL.

DIXON COLLEGE
DIXON,
ILL.

DIXON, ILL.

ROCK RIVER SCENERY.
DIXON, ILL.

DIXON DID, DIXON DOES, DIXON WILL

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